

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 AMMAN 01471 141710Z
ACTION SS-25

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-----141719Z 026017 /45
O 141529Z MAR 77
FM AMEMBASSY AMMAN
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 927

C O N F I D E N T I A L AMMAN 1471

EXDIS

FOR THE SECRETARY FROM AMBASSADOR

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PPDC, PFOR, JO, US
SUBJECT: PRESIDENT'S LETTER FOR KING HUSSEIN

REF: (A) AMMAN 1207, (B) STATE 055008

1. WHEN KING HUSSEIN RETURNED FROM CAIRO LAST WEEK I ASKED TO SEE HIM. TODAY, MARCH 14, WAS HIS FIRST DAY IN THE OFFICE.
2. AFTER EXCHANGING GREETINGS, I TOLD HIM THAT THE PRESIDENT HAD ASKED ME TO DELIVER A PERSONAL LETTER TO HIM. HE TOOK THE LETTER AND READ IT SLOWLY IN MY PRESENCE AND AT THE END SAID HOW PLEASED AND GRATIFIED HE WAS TO HAVE RECEIVED IT.
3. HE TOLD ME THAT HE THOUGHT THE WORST ASPECTS OF THE PROBLEM HAD PASSED. HE INDICATED HIS APPRECIATION FOR THE PRESIDENT'S PUBLIC STATEMENTS ABOUT THERE BEING NOTHING ILLEGAL OR IMPROPER IN THE RELATIONSHIP AND FOR THE STATEMENT REINFORCING OUR BILATERAL RELATIONS THAT THE SECRETARY MADE WHEN HE WAS HERE.

CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 AMMAN 01471 141710Z

4. AT THE END OF OUR CONVERSATION; WHICH COVERED A WIDE NUMBER OF TOPICS, THE KING ASKED ME ABOUT THE POSSIBILITY OF RELEASING THE TEXT. IT IS CLEAR THAT HE IS CONCERNED ABOUT HIS OWN PUBLIC AND THEIR VIEWS OVER THE SUBJECT. HE HAD, BEFORE I CAME IN, DISCUSSED THE SUBJECT WITH HIS BROTHER CROWN PRINCE HASSAN WHO IS ALSO CONCERNED ABOUT THE JORDANIAN DOMESTIC REACTIONS TO THE EPISODE.

5. I TOLD HIM OF COURSE I HAD NO AUTHORITY TO RELEASE THE LETTER BUT WOULD REPORT HIS REQUEST TO YOU. HE THOUGHT A MINUTE AND SAID MAYBE IT WOULD NOT BE A GOOD IDEA TO REOPEN THE WHOLE MATTER. HE THEN SAID WOULD I PLEASE DETERMINE WASHINGTON'S VIEW ON THE RELEASE OF THE TEXT IN THE EVENT THAT THE ISSUE IS AGAIN REOPENED OR BECOMES CURRENT. I SAID OF COURSE THAT I WOULD DO SO.

6. COMMENT: WHILE THE TEXT OF THE LETTER REPEATS WHAT HAS BEEN STATED PUBLICLY OR COULD HAVE BEEN INFERRED FROM PRESS REPORTS, I AM NOT SURE ABOUT THE DEGREE TO WHICH THE PRESIDENT WOULD WISH TO HAVE THIS PRIVATE LETTER MADE PUBLIC BY THE KING. THE KING WILL OF COURSE EXPECT A REPLY FROM ME ON HIS REQUEST. IF YOU PREFER NOT TO HAVE THE LETTER MADE PUBLIC, I COULD TELL HIM THAT WE WOULD HAVE NO OBJECTION TO THE JORDANIANS LETTING THE ARMY AND PERHAPS THE LOCAL PRESS KNOW THAT THE KING HAD RECEIVED A COMMUNICATION FROM THE PRESIDENT RE-AFFIRMING OUR BILATERAL RELASIONS, REPEATING THE STATEMENTS ABOUT THEIR BEING NO ILLEGAL OR IMPROPER ASPECTS OF JORDAN'S OR THE KING'S RELATIONSHIP WITH THE US AND THE FACT THAT THE PRESIDENT IS LOOKING FORWARD TO KING'S APRIL VISIT. IF AT SOME LATER TIME IT BECOMES NECESSARY IN THE KING'S JUDGMENT TO RELEASE THE LETTER, WE WOULD BE PREPARED TO CONSULT WITH HIM AND MAKE A DECISION ON THE BASIS OF THE SITUATION AT THAT TIME. THIS WOULD ALLOW THE KING TO HAVE SOMETHING REASSURING IN HIS LOCAL PRESS AND FOR THE ARMY NOW WITHOUT RELEASING THE TEXT OF THE CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 03 AMMAN 01471 141710Z

PRESIDENT'S LETTER. IT WOULD ALSO ALLOW US TO HAVE A LITTLE MORE EXACT KNOWLEDGE OF THE CIRCUMSTANCES UNDER WHICH THE LETTER MIGHT BE RELEASED AT SOME FUTURE TIME. THIS IS A CAUTIOUS APPROACH BUT I BELIEVE IT HELPS PROTECT BOTH THE KING AND OUR OWN INTERESTS IN THE RELATIONSHIP. WOULD BE MOST GRATEFUL FOR YOUR THOUGHTS AND ADVICE.
PICKERING

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: Z
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
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Concepts: BRIBERY, DIPLOMATIC COMMUNICATIONS, GOVERNMENT REACTIONS, NEWS MEDIA COMMENTS, ALLEGATIONS, DIPLOMATIC DISCUSSIONS, MEETING REPORTS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 14-Mar-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 22 May 2009
Decaption Note: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
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Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1977AMMAN01471
Document Source: CORE
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Film Number: D770087-0259
Format: TEL
From: AMMAN
Handling Restrictions:
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Legacy Key: link1977/newtext/t19770364/aaaaceja.tel
Line Count: 105
Litigation Code IDs:
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Office: ACTION SS
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
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Original Previous Classification: n/a
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